STATE

GT 6/27/93

Group warns of 'militant' gay agenda

Amendment 2 backers gather

By **Steve Rabey**
Religion Editor

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That's been Colorado for Family Values' battle cry at community watch seminars throughout the state.

"We saved Colorado Springs for last so we could make sure we got it right," said Kevin Tebedo, Colorado for Family Values executive director. The seminar on how to monitor and fight any push for gay rights was filmed so the group can provide videos to similar groups nationwide who seek advice.

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The Springs-based group won statewide voter approval for Amendment 2, which prohibits laws protecting gays from discrimination based on sexual orientation.

People on both sides agree that the gay rights issue is a main battleground in the current culture wars between conservatives and liberals. And Saturday's seminar was full of military rhetoric, including references to victories and losses, surveillance and infiltration.

But Tebedo said there would be no peace treaties in this conflict. "In opposing the homosexual agenda, there is no compromise. It will have to be defeated."

Still, the atmosphere at First Church of the Nazarene was quiet — unlike the group's February seminar in Boulder, which drew 400 opponents.

Howard Black, a Colorado Springs police detective, was prepared to deal with a disturbance. But he left the church after no Colorado for Family Values opponents appeared.

The seminar included a showing of "The Gay Agenda," a controversial video produced by a California-based anti-gay rights group. The video features scenes of rioting and graphic sexual displays at public gay demonstrations in California. It also presents hotly disputed statistics on gay males' behavior that are designed to portray them as sex-crazed.

The April 19 issue of Focus on the Family's Citizen magazine praised the video, claiming it featured

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Seminar/Gay rights group fights back

From B1

"no anti-homosexual rhetoric." But Frank Whitworth, a spokesperson for Ground Zero, a local gay advocacy group, says the video is part of an effort by the group and other conservative groups to showcase the behaviors of a small part of the gay community.

"It's propaganda similar to that used by the likes of Stalin and Hitler," said Whitworth. "Its goal is to vilify, dehumanize, segregate and ultimately eliminate homosexuals."

The group also presented video footage it shot at last Sunday's gay PrideFest in Colorado Springs. It included festival participants who had competed in a drag queen contest, same-sex partners holding hands and kissing, and shoppers at a display of leather goods.

Shots of one participant's T-shirt, which read "We recruit," and another's placard, which read, "I like boys," were used to buttress CFV's claims that the homosexual community has ties to pedophiles and child molesters.

"There is a threat," said Tebedo. "And the only thing that will put a citadel around us and our families is people like you."

After the seminar, a dozen people accepted Tebedo's invitation and signed up to volunteer.

"I'm ready to do whatever they need me for," said Diane Johnson, a teacher at a Christian dayschool and mother of a teenage daughter.

Steve Olson, an unemployed electonics worker, said he is interested in seeking a seat on the city's Human Relations Commission, which backed an unsuccessful city civil rights ordinance that included rights based on sexual orientation.

"I'm ready to be more active in the community and let my views be known," he said.

Tebedo thanked those who had come to the seminar and had voted for Amendment 2.

"It is perfectly OK to disagree with giving homosexuals protected class status," he said. "You are not a bigot, you are not a Nazi, you are not a bad person if you voted (for) Amendment 2.

"You are a concerned citizen. And you did the right thing."

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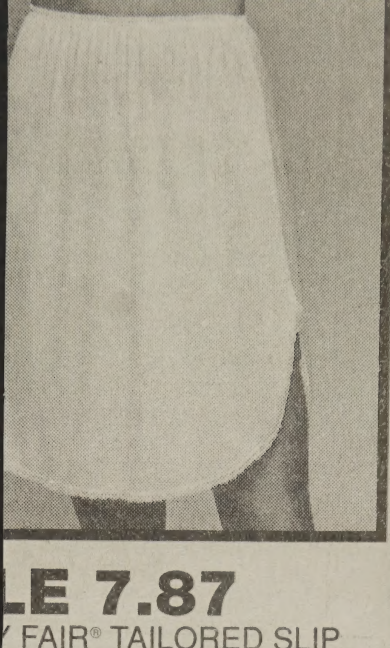

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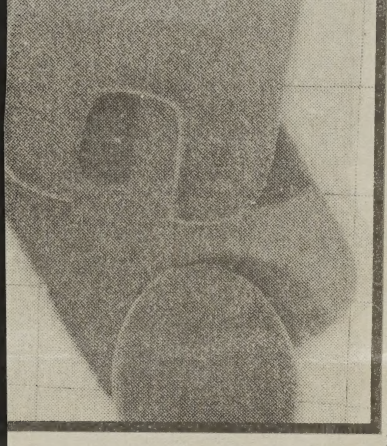

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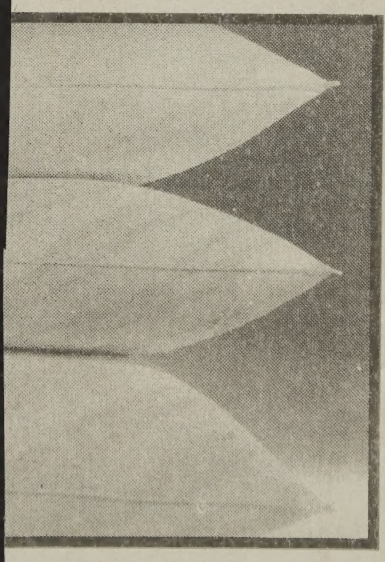

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